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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/655,828	09/05/2003	Phillip Craig Graves	64243.000015	7150
7590	04/25/2006		EXAMINER	
J. Michael Martinez de Andino, Esq. HUNTON & WILLIAMS Riverfront Plaza, East Tower 951 E. Byrd Street Richmond, VA 23219-4074			SUBRAMANIAN, NARAYANSWAMY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3624	
DATE MAILED: 04/25/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/655,828	GRAVES ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Narayanswamy Subramanian	3624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/31/03, 1/13/05</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .                                  |

**Continuation of Disposition of Claims:** Claims pending in the application are 1,3,4,8,16,17,19,20,22,25,27-34,36,37,39,42-44,50,51,53,54,56,61 and 68-71.

**Continuation of Disposition of Claims:** Claims rejected are 1, 3- 4, 8, 16, 17, 19- 20, 22, 25, 27-34, 36- 37, 39, 42-44, 50-51, 53, 54, 56, 61, and 68-71.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to applicants' communication filed on January 11, 2006. Amendments to claims 3, 4, 8, 22, 25, 29, 39, 43, 44, 56, 61, 70 and 71 and cancellation of claims 2, 5-7, 9-15, 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 35, 38, 40, 41, 45-49, 52, 55, 57-60 and 62-66 have been entered. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27-34, 36, 37, 39, 42-44, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 61, and 68-71 are pending in the application and have been examined. The rejections are stated below.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27-34, 36, 37, 39, 42-44, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 61, and 68-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirka et al (US Pub. No. 2003/0061157 A1) in view of Thomas et al (US Patent 6,173,272 B1).

Claims 1, 31 and 42, Hirka teaches a computerized method, a computer-readable medium encoded with computer program code and a system for securely authorizing and distributing stored-value card data (See Hirka Paragraph 6) over a communications network stored-value card requests over a communications network between a plurality of terminals and a central processor (See Hirka Paragraphs 31-32, Bank processor is interpreted to include a central processor), the method comprising storing in a database a plurality of records

comprising: stored-value card data for each stored-value card (See Hirka Paragraph 50), and at least one of: information identifying trusted sources for making stored-value card processing requests and information identifying trusted communications networks for carrying or transmitting stored-value card processing requests, wherein the database is coupled to a central processor (See Hirka Paragraphs 50-51, the routing rules are interpreted to include trusted communications networks); transmitting a request to change the status of a stored-value card over the communications network from a requesting terminal to the central processor (See Hirka Paragraphs 27, 31-32, transferring funds changes the account status). A computer-readable medium encoded with computer program code and a system for performing the above steps are inherent in the disclosure of Hirka.

Hirka does not explicitly teach the steps of determining at least one of: whether the respective requesting terminal is a trusted source of processing requests; and whether the communications network is a trusted communications network for carrying or transmitting processing requests; and processing the request based on the determining step.

Thomas teaches the steps of determining at least one of: whether the respective requesting terminal is a trusted source of processing requests; and whether the communications network is a trusted communications network for carrying or transmitting processing requests; and processing the request based on the determining step (See Thomas Column 5 line 5- Column 6 line 36). The determining step is inherent in the disclosure of Thomas.

Both Hirka and Thomas are concerned with processing financial transactions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Hirka to include the teachings of Thomas. The combination of disclosures suggests that users would

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have benefited from the knowledge that their transactions are processed using trusted networks which reduces the risk of fraud and misuse.

Claims 3, 30 and 43, Hirka teaches the step wherein said processing request is selected from a group consisting of: a request to activate the stored-value card, a request to deactivate the stored-value card, a request to change the value of the stored-value card, a request to add the original value of the stored-value card to the current value of the stored-value card, and a request to redeem the value or the portion of the value of the stored-value card (See Hirka Paragraphs 28, 31-32).

Claims 4 and 44, Hirka teaches the step wherein said processing step is selected from the group consisting of: activating the stored-value card, deactivating the stored-value card, changing the value of the stored-value card, adding the original value of the stored-value card to the current value of the stored-value card, and redeeming the value or the portion of the value of the stored-value card (See Hirka Paragraphs 28, 31-32).

Claims 8 and 61, the steps wherein said stored-value card is selected from the group consisting of: a gift card, a prepaid gas card, a prepaid grocery card, a prepaid entertainment card, a card used for downloading ring tones, a card used for downloading software, a card used for downloading music files, and a customer rewards card and wherein said stored-value card is a card used for a purpose, selected from the group consisting of: downloading music files, downloading of games, enabling long distance telephone communication, enabling wireless communication, enabling paging services, enabling internet communication services, and enables wireless web access are old and well known uses of a stored value card. These features make them useful as gift cards also.

Claims 16, 33 and 50, Hirka teaches the step wherein the communications network is a dedicated data circuit (See Hirka Paragraph 21, ATM network is a dedicated circuit), and the determining step is based on whether the dedicated data circuit is a trusted communications network (inherent in the disclosure of Thomas).

Claims 17, 34 and 51, Thomas teaches the step wherein the request is transmitted over the Internet (See Thomas Column 10 lines 1-3).

Claims 19, 20, 22, 25, 27-29, 36, 37, 39, 53, 54, 56, and 68-71, the features in these claims are either taught by the combination of Hirka and Thomas or are old and well known in the art. These features provide further refinement to the processing of stored-value card transactions.

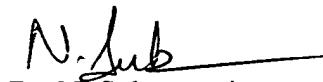
### **Conclusion**

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Narayanswamy Subramanian whose telephone number is (571) 272-6751. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached at (571) 272-6747. The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft to the Patent Office is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PMR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PMR only. For more information about the PMR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dr. N. Subramanian

April 3, 2006